

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 3

THE DENVER CLARION
(University of Denver)
18 October 1979

Objection to CIA Interviews

To the Editor:

Some of your readers may be conscientious students dedicated to learning applicable theories for making the dream of a peaceful "global village" into a reality. Hopefully, upon graduation, these readers may get a chance of putting their theories into practice, be it in the fields of business or in the arts and sciences.

Yet, these same students have nothing to say when the administration of this university permits a member of the CIA on campus to interview for prospective employees.

Wouldn't you expect some reaction to the presence of a representative of an organization with a history of treachery and murder? Can people so soon forget the Popular Unity government of Chile or the CIA's arms support of the corrupt Holden Roberto in Angola?

Perhaps examples closer to home will mean more to students unconcerned about the role of the U.S. in international affairs. "Evidence has come to light over the years that the CIA withheld evidence from the Warren Commission." In the Assassination Committee hearings of the last autumn it was denied by former CIA director Richard Helms that Oswald was, in fact, a CIA agent. Yet many theorize that this is the key to the assassination and that the CIA "brutally treated" a KGB defector who indicated otherwise (Denver Post, 10/22/78). Two members of the Warren Commission knew that the CIA withheld information (Allen Dulles and Richard Russell) but did nothing. Richard Helms received a suspended sentence for his treachery for lying before a congressional committee to protect what he believed was "national security."

Recent polls have shown that the numbers of Americans who doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone has risen.

In the past year information has been released through the freedom of information act that the CIA considered its spying on American political and civil rights figures as having the same priority as its intelligence gathering on the Soviet Union and Communist China (Rocky Mountain News, 9/9/79). The recent murder of a retired CIA agent in Maryland, the CIA's interest in Nazi behavioral studies, the case of CIA spy satellites spying on American activists—the revelations continue of this depraved and irresponsible use of our tax dollars.

The CIA, according to most reports, is now muzzled and engaging primarily in legitimate, overt activities. Yet, is anyone expecting the agency to keep its fingers out of the pie if indigenous movements in other countries threaten to allow peoples to determine their own destinies? The fear of the monolith on the other side of the ocean is the justification Americans use for the "dirty business" of espionage and counterinsurgency activity. To be sure, the Soviet Union has been as notorious as the United States in its self-appointment as imperial policeman of the globe. Our question is, if both superpowers find it necessary to uphold their visions of the good life through terror, manipulation, and the shattering of political freedom in their own as well as other societies, isn't it time we started finding ways to de-claw these monsters (and the monsters they have engendered in the rest of the world)?

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